

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4, 6, 8-12 and 14-20 are amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Hughes et al., which is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 is directed to a control program structure of an ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) switching system including a master function unit mounted at a processor board existing outside a switching system, a protocol processing function unit mounted within each processor board existing in the switching system, and a plurality of resource control function units for receiving a control request message through the protocol processing function unit from the master function unit and controlling a hardware resource of the switching system. Further, the protocol processing function unit and the resource control function units are separately implemented from each other. Independent claims 6 and 12 include similar features in a varying scope.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 3 illustrates a master function unit (GSMP) 52 mounted at a processor board 50 existing outside a switching system 100, a protocol processing function unit (GSPCF) 61 mounted within each processor board 60, 70, 80 existing in the switching system 100, and a plurality of resource control function units (MSRMFs) 62, 71 and 81 for receiving a control request message through the protocol

processing function unit 61 from the master function unit 52 and controlling a hardware resource 90 of the switching system 100. Further, as shown, the protocol processing function unit (GSPCF) 61 and the resource control function units (MSRMFs) 62, 71, 81 are separately implemented from each other. Thus, modification of the modules or additions to the modules are facilitated (see page 3, lines 11-14 and page 6, lines 4-6).

The outstanding Office Action applies Figures 2 and 9 of Hughes et al. as teaching the claimed invention. However, with respect to Figure 2, it is respectfully noted that the controller, which the Office Action alleges is equivalent to the protocol processing function, is not mounted within each processor board 110, 115 and 120. Further, the Office Action relies on Figure 9 as illustrating the claimed plurality of resource control functions. In particular, the Office Action indicates Figure 9 illustrates a VSI slave 522 communicating with a VSI master 518 and that this reads on the plurality of resource control function units for receiving a control message and controlling a hardware resource. However, with reference to Figure 9 of Hughes et al., the Office Action also relies on the VSI master 518 as corresponding to the GSMP master (see Figure 3 of the present invention) and the VSI slave 522 as corresponding to the GSPCF of the present invention. In this instance, however, it is respectfully noted Figure 9 of Hughes et al. does not teach or suggest a separate implemented resource control function. Thus, the advantage of the present invention are not achieved with Hughes et al.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1, 6 and 12 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

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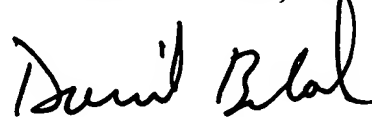
Further, the specification has been amended to include a reference to Figure 5, and it is believed no new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **David A. Bilodeau**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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